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10/026,043	10/25/2001	Huayan A. Wang	1190	8635

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EXAMINER

KIM, JUNG W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2132

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/026,043		WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Jung Kim		2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed on April 28, 2006.
2. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the 103(a) rejection(s) of claims have been fully considered but are not persuasive. In particular, applicant argues in substance that the claimed invention define a step of the authentication data being sent to a plurality of access points in the network whereas the prior art only teaches sending the authentication data to the Home Agent, and moreover, that the claimed invention define the step of local authentication at the plurality of access points using this authentication data, whereas the prior art only discloses local authentication at the home agent and only "remote" authentication at the foreign agents. Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's arguments, specifically, applicant's interpretation of the claimed limitations. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., that authentication data is sent to a plurality of access points in the network and a roaming device is authenticated by each of these plurality of access points locally using the submitted authentication data) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed.

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Cir. 1993). The limitation in question is reiterated here taken from exemplary claim 1: "... sending, by the authentication server, the authentication data to access points of the network, the access points being connected to the authentication server; and when the roaming device roams to a particular access point of the access points, using the authentication data to locally authenticate the roaming device at the particular access point." Rephrased, this limitation only specifies sending the authentication data to a plurality of access points, whereupon the authentication sent to the plurality of access points is used at **a particular access point** for local authentication when the roaming device roams to **this particular access point**. As recited, this limitation only requires local authentication at a single access point and does not require local authentication at each and every access point to which the authentication data is sent; more pertinently, the limitation does not require local authentication at a foreign agent ("the other access points"), contrary to applicant's argument. In terms of the authentication data being submitted to a plurality of access points, Singhal '050 discloses authenticating remotely a mobile node via a server authentication module within a given access point with an authentication server (col. 18:31-60). The feature of local authentication at a particular access point is covered by the teachings of Singhal '050 and Leung, since Leung discloses temporarily storing authentication data at the Home Agent when the mobile node makes an initial registration request, which enables local authentication at the Home Agent: a roaming device initially registering at a Foreign Agent then roaming to the Home Agent, will authenticate with the Home Agent locally. For these reasons, the prior art rejections of the claims are maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal et al. USPN 6,851,050 (hereinafter Singhal '050) in view of Leung USPN 6,760,444. (hereinafter Leung)

5. As per claim 1, Singhal '050 discloses a method for authenticating a roaming device with a network, comprising the steps of:

- a. generating, by an authentication server of the network, authentication data associated with the roaming device (col. 18:45-46);
- b. sending, by the authentication server, the authentication data to access points of the network, the access points being connected to the authentication server(18:61-64); and
- c. when the roaming device roams to a particular access point of the access points, using the authentication data to authenticate the roaming device at the particular access point. (18:65-67)

Singhal '050 does not disclose authenticating the roaming device locally at the particular access point. Leung discloses a method and apparatus for authenticating a mobile node with a Home Agent, wherein the security association to authenticate the mobile node is retrieved from the authentication server by the Home Agent. (7:23-50) In order to reduce the number of authentication requests to the authentication server for the mobile node, the security association is temporarily stored in the Home Agent. (7:50-

67) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Leung with the invention of Singhal '050 such that the authentication data is stored at the access points of the network to locally authenticate the roaming device at a particular access point. One would be motivated to do so to reduce traffic between the authentication server and the access points as taught by Leung. (7:64-66) The aforementioned covers the limitation of claim 1.

6. As per claim 2, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the method further comprising the step of storing the authentication data in a memory arrangement of each of the access points. (Singhal '050, col. 18:64, 19:15-26)

7. As per claim 3, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the sending step includes the substeps of: encrypting the authentication data to selected access points of the access points. (Singhal '050, col. 18:64)

8. As per claim 6, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the method further comprising the preliminary steps of determining if the particular access point has authentication data associated with the roaming device; if the determination is positive, proceed to the step of using the authentication data to

locally authenticate the roaming device at the particular access point; and if the determination is negative, proceed to the step of generating, by an authentication server of the network, authentication data associated with the roaming device. (Singhal '050, fig. 15)

9. As per claim 10, Singhal '050 discloses a method for authenticating a roaming device with a network, comprising the steps of:

- d. connecting the roaming device with an authentication server upon a contact of the roaming device with a first access point of the network (18:40-45);
- e. authenticating the roaming device with the authentication server (18:45);
- f. generating authentication data for the roaming device(18:49-65);
- g. distributing, by the authentication server, the authentication data to the first access point and a second access point of the network (18:60-65); and
- h. authenticating the roaming device upon a contact with the second access point using the distributed authentication data. (18:65-67)

Singhal '050 does not disclose authenticating the roaming device locally at the particular access point. Leung discloses a method and apparatus for authenticating a mobile node with a Home Agent, wherein the security association to authenticate the mobile node is retrieved from the authentication server by the Home Agent. (7:23-50) In order to reduce the number of authentication requests to the authentication server for the mobile node, the security association is temporarily stored in the Home Agent. (7:50-67) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine the teaching of Leung with the invention of Singhal '050 such that the authentication data is stored at the access points of the network to locally authenticate the roaming device at a particular access point. One would be motivated to do so to reduce traffic between the authentication server and the access points.

(Leung, 7:64-66) The aforementioned covers the limitation of claim 10.

10. As per claim 11, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the method further comprising the step of authenticating the roaming device with the authentication server if the local authentication of the roaming device fails.

(Singhal '050, 18:40-45; 19:20-23)

11. As per claim 12, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. In addition, the distributing step further includes the substep of distributing an encrypted session key to the first and second access points. (Singhal '050, 18:61-64)

12. As per claim 14, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the method further comprising the steps of establishing a shared secret encryption between the authentication server and the first and second access points.

(Singhal '050, 18:64)

13. As per claim 16, Singhal '050 discloses a system for authenticating a roaming device with a network, comprising:

- i. an authentication server connected to the network (fig. 14); and
- j. first and second access points connected to the authentication server, the first and second access points being capable of communicating with the roaming device, each of the first and second access points including a memory arrangement capable of storing authentication data corresponding to the roaming device (18:66; 19:20-26),
- k. wherein the authentication server sends the authentication data to the first and second access points upon an initial authentication procedure of the roaming device with the first access point (18:61-67), and
- l. wherein the second access point authenticates the roaming device upon a contact of the roaming device with the second access point. (18:65-67)

Singhal '050 does not disclose authenticating the roaming device locally at the particular access point. Leung discloses a method and apparatus for authenticating a mobile node with a Home Agent, wherein the security association to authenticate the mobile node is retrieved from the authentication server by the Home Agent. (7:23-50) In order to reduce the number of authentication requests to the authentication server for the mobile node, the security association is temporarily stored in the Home Agent. (7:50-67) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Leung with the invention of Singhal '050

such that the authentication data is stored at the access points of the network to locally authenticate the roaming device at a particular access point. One would be motivated to do so to reduce traffic between the authentication server and the access points as taught by Leung. (7:64-66) The aforementioned covers the limitation of claim 16.

14. As per claim 17, the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the second access point authenticates the roaming device with the authentication server if the authentication data is not found in the memory arrangement of the second access point. (Singhal '050, fig. 15)

15. As per claim 18, the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the second access points authenticates the roaming device with the authentication server if the local authentication of the roaming device at the second access point fails. (Singhal '050, 19:20-26)

16. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung, and further in view of Ablay et al. USPN 5,408,683. (hereinafter Ablay)

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17. As per claim 4, the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) Singhal '050 does not disclose using prediction algorithms to anticipate where the roaming device will roam to determine to which access points to send the encrypted authentication data. Ablay discloses a method of tracking subscribers in a networked radio communications system having a plurality of trunked communication networks using location information of the subscribers to anticipate a roaming unit's location to reduce the number of registrations and de-registrations of the roaming unit. (col. 5:19-60; 6:26-57) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ablay with the invention of Singhal '050 and Leung to use prediction algorithms to anticipate where the roaming device will roam to determine to which access points to send the encrypted authentication data. One would be motivated to do so to reduce the transmission overhead in keeping track of roaming subscribers. (Ablay, 3:30-37) The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 4.

18. As per claim 5, the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, in view of Ablay, the limitation of sending the encrypted authentication data to all the access points is an obvious enhancement in view of the teaching of Ablay that a mobile unit's registration is maintained at all access points in the anticipated probable

locations of the mobile unit. (Ablay, col. 5:19-26) The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 5.

19. Claims 7, 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung, and further in view of Vij et al. USPN 6,452,910. (hereinafter Vij '910)

20. As per claim 7, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the step of using the authentication data to locally authenticate the roaming device further comprises reassociating the roaming device with the particular access point of the access points by providing identification information. (fig. 15, reference nos. 1510 and 1520) However, Singhal '050 only discloses that the roaming device provides identification, and does not disclose that an exchange occurs between the roaming device and access points to reassociate. Vij '910 discloses a management means for wireless access points wherein wireless devices are mutually authenticated with access points utilizing a common link key to verify that the wireless device is authorized to access the access point, and to ensure that the access point is the intended receiver. (col. 11:1-7) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the reassociating to include a mutual authentication between the roaming device and the access point, since it is desirable to verify that the

participants belong to the same local network. (Vij, *ibid*) The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 7.

21. As per claim 8, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is incorporated herein. (*supra*) In addition, the reassociating step further includes the substeps of:

m. searching a memory arrangement of the particular access point for the authentication data associated with the roaming device; and if the authentication data is found, performing a mutual authentication procedure between the roaming device and the particular access point. (Singhal '050; Willins, paragraph 17)

22. As per claim 13, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (*supra*) In addition, Singhal discloses the locally authenticating step further includes the substeps of:

n. providing identification data by the roaming device to the second access point; and correlating the identification data with the distributed authentication data. (18:40-42 and 65-67)

23. However, Singhal '050 only discloses that the roaming device provides identification, and does not disclose exchanging identification between the roaming device and access points to reassociate. Vij discloses a management means for wireless access points wherein wireless devices are mutually authenticated with access

points using a common link key to verify that the wireless device is authorized to access the access point, and to ensure that the access point is the intended receiver. (col. 11:1-7) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the reassociating to include a mutual authentication between the roaming device and the access point, since it is desirable to verify that the participants of a transmission belong to the same local network. (Vij, *ibid*) The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 13.

24. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050.

25. As per claim 9, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (*supra*) In addition, the generating step further includes the steps of:

- o. receiving an authentication request from the roaming device; determining that the roaming device can be granted access to network services; and generating an encrypted session key associated with the roaming device in the authentication server. (18:40-64)

26. Singhal '050 does not expressly teach the authentication request is encrypted. However, it is notoriously well known that authentication data transmitted in the clear is susceptible to sniffing attacks. To prevent authentication data from being stolen, these values are typically encrypted using a shared secret between the sender and receiver.

For example, in the RADIUS protocol, a password transmitted from a client to an authentication server is hidden using a shared secret. Hence, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the authentication data to be transmitted securely to prevent the data from being stolen. The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 9.

27. Claims 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung, and further in view of Zhang et al. US Patent Application no. 20020174335 (hereinafter Zhang); RFC 2138 is incorporated to illustrate inherent properties of the RADIUS protocol.

28. As per claim 15, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Singhal '050 in view of Leung is incorporated herein. (supra) Singhal '050 does not disclose the authentication server is a remote authentication dial-in user server. Zhang discloses an authentication procedure for mobile devices designed by Cisco wherein a roaming user is authenticated via an access point, and uses the RADIUS protocol to authenticate the user to the authentication server. (pg. 3, paragraphs 44-46) Further, the RADIUS protocol is the de-facto standard for remote authentication as known in the art. Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the authentication server to be a RADIUS server, since it is desirous to implement protocols that have gained wide acceptance for reasons including, inter alia, standardization of design.

29. As per claim 19, Singhal '050 discloses a method for authenticating a roaming device with a network, comprising the steps of:

p. with an authentication server, receiving an authentication request from a roaming device; with the authentication server, generating a session key associated with the roaming device; sending the session key to an access point of the network, the session key being encrypted with a second shared code; and utilizing the session key to authenticate the roaming device at the access point, and to encrypt data exchanged between the roaming device and the access point. (col. 18:40-67)

30. Singhal '050 does not expressly disclose the authentication request received from the roaming device is encrypted with a first shared code. Zhang discloses an authentication procedure for mobile devices designed by Cisco wherein a roaming user is authenticated via an access point, and uses the RADIUS protocol to authenticate the user to an authentication server. Upon, authentication, an encrypted session key is delivered from the authentication server to the access point and the user (pg. 3, paragraphs 44-46; RFC 2138, pg. 4, last sentence, section 2, the password is encrypted using a method based on the RSA message digest algorithm MD5) Further, it is notoriously well known that authentication data transmitted in the clear is susceptible to sniffing attacks; to prevent authentication data from being stolen, these values are typically encrypted using a shared secret between the sender and receiver. Hence, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

for the authentication data to be transmitted securely to prevent the data from being stolen. The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 19.

31. As per claim 20, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, the method further comprising the step of sending the encrypted session key to a further access point of the network to authenticate the roaming device at the further access point. (Singhal '050, col. 18:64)

32. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal '050 in view of Leung and Zhang, and further in view of Quick, Jr. USPN 6,178,506 (hereinafter Quick '506).

33. As per claim 21, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is incorporated herein. (supra) In addition, Singhal '050 discloses the method further comprising the steps of:

- q. generating a first key of the session key to perform authentication of the roaming device at the access point (fig. 15, reference no. 1500); and
- r. generating a second key of the session key to encrypt data exchanges between the roaming device and the access point. (fig. 15, reference no. 1570a)

34. Singhal '050 does not expressly teach the first key as being different from the second key. Quick '506 discloses an authentication method wherein a first portion of a session key is used for authentication and a second portion of the session key is used

for encryption. Since, the session key is larger than the required byte size necessary for authentication, the portion not used for authentication is used for encryption. (col. 5:38-50) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the first key generated from the session key to perform authentication and the second key generated from the session key to perform encryption to be different keys, since the protocols for authentication and encryption typically require different length keys. (Quick '506, 5:45-50) The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 21.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Communications Inquiry

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung W. Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

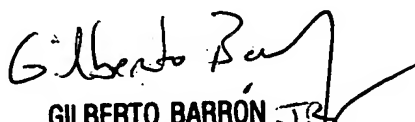
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



June 10, 2006

Jung W Kim
Examiner
Art Unit 2132



GILBERTO BARRÓN JR.
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